



REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND THE
Chief Public Health Inspector
FOR THE
Borough of Barnstaple
FOR THE YEAR 1961

BOROUGH OF BARNSTAPLE

Telephone No:
Barnstaple 2591.

Public Health Department,
The Castle,
BARNSTAPLE.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1961

E. WILLIAMS,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

W. RODGERS,
M.A.P.H.I.,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To : His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors
of the Borough of Barnstaple.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Borough for the Year 1961.

The mid-year estimated population, as given by the Registrar-General, was 15,520 which is 30 less than that for the previous year.

There was an excess number of deaths over births, the total number of deaths being 284, as compared with 280 births. The Birth Rate of 18.58 compares favourably with the County as a whole which is 17.4.

There were 4 deaths of infants under 1 year of age, giving an Infant Mortality Rate of 14.28. There were no Maternal Deaths attributable to childbirth during the year.

I should like to express my appreciation of the help and interest given by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee in the work of the Department, and also the Department Staff for their co-operation at all times.

Yours faithfully,

E. WILLIAMS,

Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH COMMITTEE
YEAR 1961/62

His Worship the Mayor - Councillor S. W. Woolaway, J.P.

Chairman - Councillor J. R. Whyman

Aldermen - G. Casey

F. A. Dunning

W. J. Thomas

W. H. Wilkey, J.P.

Councillors - G. H. Capel, J.P.

Miss M. K. Howard

R. M. Huxtable

J. H. Rayner

E. J. Shobbrook

S T A F F

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The Staff of the Public Health Department consists of :-

Part-time Officer -

E. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health

Whole-time Officers :-

W. RODGERS, M.A.P.H.I.,

Chief Public Health Inspector

F. V. PYE, M.A.P.H.I.,

Additional Public Health Inspector

MISS E. M. FENNELL

Clerk

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE BOROUGH -

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,396
Population (Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,520
Rateable Value (as at 1.4.1962)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£288,675
Product of a Penny Rate (Year 1961/62 Estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,171
Number of Inhabited Houses (as at 1.4.1962)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,859
Number of Corporation Houses (as at 31.12.1961)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,201
Density of Persons per House	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.1

Extracts from Vital Statistics -

Births : Area Comparability Factor	...	...	...	...	1.03
Deaths : " " "	...	...	...	...	0.84

VITAL STATISTICS -

Live Births -

Number	...	...	...	...	...	...	280
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.04
Rate per 1,000 population, adjusted by Comp. Fact.	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.58

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of Total Live Births 5.7

Stillbirths -

Number	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Rate per 1,000 Total Live & Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	24.39

Total Live and Still Births ... 287

Infant Deaths (Deaths under 1 year) ... 4

Infant Mortality Rates -

Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	14.28
Legit. " " " " Legit. " " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.36
Illeg. " " " " Illeg. " " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	62.5

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 Total Live Births) ... 14.28

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Total Live Births) ... 14.28

Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths, and Deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 Total Live & Still Births) ... 38.32

Maternal Mortality (including abortion) -

Number of Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Rate per 1,000 Total Live & Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL

Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	284
Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.29
"	"	"	"	"	"	adjusted by Comp. Fact.			15.36

POPULATION, BIRTHS & DEATHS TABLE FOR THE BOROUGH SINCE 1946 -

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u> (Regist.Gen. Estimate)	<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
1946	15,810	336	232
1947	15,960	369	265
1948	16,000	317	242
1949	15,940	287	227
1950	16,060	230	217
1951 (Census)	16,110	263	241
1952	16,130	266	198
1953	16,090	261	314
1954	16,080	246	227
1955	15,930	239	227
1956	15,790	233	220
1957	15,750	255	227
1958	15,660	244	223
1959	15,520	281	214
1960	15,550	261	233
1961	15,520	280	284

BIRTHS -

During the year there were 280 live births, which was 19 more than occurred during 1960.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Live Births -</u>			
Legitimate	140	124	264
Illegitimate	7	9	16
	<u>147</u>	<u>133</u>	<u>280</u>
	<u><u>147</u></u>	<u><u>133</u></u>	<u><u>280</u></u>

The number of home confinements was 79, which is approximately 28% of the total live births.

<u>North Devon</u> <u>Infirmary</u>	<u>Highfield</u> <u>Maternity Home</u>	<u>At Home</u>	<u>Bicclescombe</u> <u>Hospital</u> <u>Ilfracombe</u>
48	149	79	4
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population 18.04			
" " " " " " adjusted by Comp.Fact. 18.58			
Birth Rate for England & Wales 17.4			

The Birth Rate (adjusted) for previous years and for 1961 is as follows :-

1946 ... 21.25	1951 ... 16.15	1956 ... 15.34
1947 ... 23.12	1952 ... 16.32	1957 ... 16.67
1948 ... 19.8	1953 ... 16.05	1958 ... 16.04
1949 ... 18.0	1954 ... 15.90	1959 ... 18.64
1950 ... 14.32	1955 ... 15.60	1960 ... 17.28
		1961 ... 18.58

Still Births -

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>
	<u>=</u>	<u>=</u>	<u>=</u>

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population	0.45
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Live & Still Births ..	24.39

DEATHS -

The total number of deaths of Borough residents during the year was 284, as compared with a figure of 233 in 1960.

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
112	172	284

Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	18.29
" " " " " adjusted by Comp. Fact...					15.36
Death Rate for England & Wales	...	...	...	...	12.0

The Death Rate (adjusted) for previous years and for 1961 is as follows :-

1946 ...	14.67	1951 ...	11.81	1956 ...	12.25
1947 ...	16.6	1952 ...	9.65	1957 ...	12.68
1948 ...	15.12	1953 ...	15.41	1958 ...	12.24
1949 ...	11.39	1954 ...	11.42	1959 ...	11.29
1950 ...	10.8	1955 ...	11.54	1960 ...	12.43
				1961 ...	15.36

The following table gives Causes of Death :-

				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	...	...	...	1	-	1
" - Other	...	...	...	1	-	1
Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	-	-	-
Diphtheria	...	...	...	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	-	-	-
Measles	...	...	...	-	-	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases				-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	...	...	...	2	-	2
" " - Lung, Bronchus	..			9	1	10
" " - Breast	...	...	...	-	5	5
" " - Uterus	...	...	...	-	-	-
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms				15	13	28
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...	2	1	3
Diabetes	...	...	...	2	-	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...			20	25	45
Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	...	31	16	47
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...			4	2	6
Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	22	42	64
Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	...	2	7	9
Influenza	...	...	...	-	-	-

Causes of Death (continued)

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pneumonia	7	10	17
Bronchitis	2	1	3
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	2	2	4
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	1	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	2	-	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	2	1	3
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases ..	6	11	17
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-	1
All Other Accidents	3	2	5
Suicide	3	2	5
Homicide and Operations of War	-	-	-
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>142</u>	<u>142</u>	<u>284</u>

Deaths occurred in the following age-groups :-

Under 1 year ... 4	45 - 64 years ... 66
1 - 4 years ... 2	65 - 74 " ... 68
5 - 14 " ... 2	75 - 84 " ... 85
15 - 24 " ... -	85 - 94 " ... 51
25 - 44 " ... 4	95 + " ... 2

Neo-natal Deaths -

This represents the number of deaths occurring in infants under the age of 4 weeks :-

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate ...	2	1	3
Illegitimate ...	-	1	1

Neo-natal Death Rate per 1,000 Total Live Births ... 14.28

Infant Mortality Rate -

During the year, 4 infants died under the age of 1 year, viz :

		<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	...	2	1	3
Illegitimate	...	-	1	1

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Total Live Births ... 14.28

The following table gives causes of death occurring in infants under 1 year :-

<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Cause of Death</u>
1		1 day	Prematurity
	1	5 days	Intracerebral Haemorrhage
1		5 days	Cerebral Haemorrhage
	1	22 days	Prematurity

Maternal Mortality : NIL.

Cancer Deaths -

There were 45 deaths from Cancer during the year, as compared with 44 in 1960.

			<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Stomach	...	...	2	-	2
Lungs & Bronchus	...	...	9	1	10
Breast	...	...	-	5	5
Uterus	...	...	-	-	-
Other	...	...	15	13	28
			<u>26</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>45</u>
			<u>=</u>	<u>=</u>	<u>=</u>

Cancer of the Lung & Bronchus -

		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Year	1950	3	-	3
	1951	2	-	2
	1952	2	-	2
	1953	3	3	6
	1954	5	1	6
	1955	5	-	5
	1956	8	-	8
	1957	6	1	7
	1958	9	-	9
	1959	4	1	5
	1960	13	2	15
	1961	9	1	10

Cancer of the lung in Males decreased from 13 in 1960 to 9 in 1961.

The total number of cancer deaths, and the percentage of cancer deaths to total deaths since 1948 are shown in the following table :-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total No. of Deaths</u>	<u>Cancer Deaths</u>		<u>Total</u>	<u>Percentage of Cancer Deaths to Total Deaths</u>
		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>		
1948	242	11	24	35	14.4%
1949	227	13	17	30	13.1%
1950	217	15	11	26	11.9%
1951	241	14	12	26	10.7%
1952	198	9	17	26	13.1%
1953	314	22	27	49	15.6%
1954	227	15	23	38	16.7%
1955	227	15	15	30	13.2%
1956	220	23	17	40	18.1%
1957	227	18	11	29	12.7%
1958	223	24	27	51	22.8%
1959	214	17	18	35	16.3%
1960	233	24	20	44	18.8%
1961	284	26	19	45	15.8%

INFECTIOUS DISEASES -

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during 1961, arranged in the various age-groups.

Age Groups	Food Poisoning	Measles	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Pneumonia	Scarlet Fever	Tuberculosis				Whooping Cough
						Pulm.	Mening. & C.N.S.	Other		
Under 1 yr.	-	17	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
1 +	-	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
2 +	-	63	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
3 +	-	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
4 +	-	71	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	6
5 - 9 yrs.	-	254	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	9
10 - 14 "	-	13	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
15 - 19 "	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
20 - 34 "	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 "	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
45 - 64 "	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ...	2*	506	1	10	2 ^{1/2}	3	-	-	-	30

* Food Poisoning : Both cases traced to consumption of untreated Mussels from the River Taw estuary.

* Scarlet Fever : Both cases in same household; isolated at home.

The total number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year was 554, as compared with 45 in 1960.

The 506 Measles cases were reported during the months of May, June and July, and were responsible for much absenteeism in the Schools during that period.

No cases of Poliomyelitis were reported, and for the sixteenth consecutive year there were no cases of Diphtheria.

3 cases of Lung Tuberculosis were notified, as compared with 8 in 1960.

The Mass Radiography Service visited the Borough during the year for an intensive survey of the general public. Special visits were also arranged at various factories within the town.

The findings of the survey were :-

(A) PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS -

1.	Newly discovered significant cases			
	(a) requiring treatment	...	...	4
	(b) requiring further observation	...		3
2.	Healed cases : no further action	...		Nil
3.	Previously known cases	...	...	4

(B) OTHER CONDITIONS -

Carcinoma of Bronchus	...	...	...	3
Bronchial neoplasm	...	...	...	1
Retrosternal thyroid enlargement			...	2
Sarcoidosis	...	...	...	2
Cardiovascular disease	...	...	...	3
Bronchiectasis	...	...	...	2
Pneumonic infections	...	...	...	3
Bronchitis	...	...	...	6
Diaphragmatic abnormalities		...	...	4
Bony abnormality (fibrous dysplasia)				
needing treatment			...	1
Other insignificant abnormalities			...	17

TUBERCULOSIS CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR
(arranged according to age)

Age Groups	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
1 - 4 years	-	-	-	-
5 - 9 "	-	-	-	-
10 - 14 "	-	-	-	-
15 - 19 "	-	1	-	-
20 - 24 "	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 "	-	1	-	-
35 - 44 "	-	1	-	-
45 - 54 "	-	-	-	-
55 - 64 "	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ...	-	3	-	-

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE YEAR

Age Groups	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
1 - 4 years	-	-	-	-
5 - 9 "	-	-	-	-
10 - 14 "	-	-	-	-
15 - 19 "	-	-	-	-
20 - 24 "	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 "	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 "	-	-	-	-
45 - 54 "	-	-	-	-
55 - 64 "	1	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	1	-
TOTAL ...	1	-	1	-

INCIDENCE OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS SINCE 1946

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Cases of Pulm. T.B.</u>	<u>Case Rate per 1,000 population</u>	<u>No. of Deaths</u>	<u>Death Rate per 1,000 population</u>
1946	15	0.94	13	0.82
1947	9	0.56	6	0.37
1948	11	0.68	6	0.37
1949	5	0.31	3	0.18
1950	9	0.56	2	0.12
1951	18	1.11	7	0.43
1952	12	0.74	3	0.18
1953	8	0.49	2	0.12
1954	4	0.24	0	Nil
1955	5	0.31	1	0.06
1956	12	0.76	0	Nil
1957	6	0.37	0	Nil
1958	11	0.76	1	0.06
1959	13	0.83	1	0.06
1960	8	0.51	1	0.06
1961	3	0.19	1	0.06

The following table shows the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register on the 1st January and 31st December, 1961.

1961	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
1st January	87	51	138	16	17	33
31st December	73	44	117	9	12	21

IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION -

Protective Immunization and Vaccination against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Smallpox and Poliomyelitis, are undertaken by the General Practitioners and at the Infant Welfare and School Clinics. There are 2 Infant Welfare Clinics organised by the Devon County Health Authority within the Borough. These are held at Sticklepath and at the Alexandra Road Clinic each week.

CARE OF THE AGED -

Where possible, elderly people who are living alone are given every assistance to enable them to remain as long as possible in their own homes. The more needy cases are visited by the health Visitors, and in instances of ill-health, by the District Nurses. They are also assisted in running their own homes through the Home Help Scheme. This is operated locally by the W.V.S. through Mrs. M. Hughes, for the Devon County Council, and extends into all the North Devon rural area wherever transport is available.

There are now 98 Home Helps, full-time and part-time.

During the year, 603 cases were dealt with. Of these, at least 89 old people are being cared for, who, but for the services of the Home Help Scheme, would have to go into hospital or a Welfare Home.

There are 22 blind persons who are being cared for, and during the year there were also 33 maternity cases at which the Home Helps assisted in the homes.

Any case recommended by a Doctor, Health Visitor, District Nurse or Hospital Almoner may have the services of a Home Help.

The W.V.S. have also arranged a rota of helpers who visit the aged in their homes, take them magazines, and do their shopping for them, etc.

The W.V.S. also run an 'S.O.S' window-card scheme for elderly persons. These cards, which are provided by the local

Rotarians, are issued to the elderly who are living alone. At the back of the card is written the name of the family Doctor, the nearest relative, etc. The idea is that, should any assistance be required, one of these cards is put in the window and help is forthcoming.

"MEALS ON WHEELS" -

This is a service also provided by the W.V.S. A two-course meal is prepared and delivered to the homes of the aged for a charge of 1/- per head. Approximately 26 meals are delivered each Wednesday during the year, and they are greatly appreciated.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951, Sec. 47 -

No cases were dealt with under this Act during 1961.

HOUSING -

During the year, further progress was made regarding the Borough Council's Slum Clearance Programme. The work of clearing the unfit houses in Zion's Place, which started in 1960, was continued during the year and completed. Similarly, all unfit dwellings in the Belle Meadow area and Congram's Row were also demolished, and all displaced families were re-housed.

The Council approved of 45 applications for Standard Grants to improve existing dwellings. 40 of these applications were made by owner/occupiers.

The Council also approved of 14 applications by owners for Discretionary Grants.

The total number of houses erected by the Council during the year was 45.

The number of applicants for Council houses on the general waiting list was 181 at the end of the year, which was slightly less than that at the corresponding period of the previous year. Of the 181 applicants, 157 were from within the Borough.

During the year, 77 dwellings were built by private enterprise.

WATER SUPPLIES

The water supply to the Borough has been adequate in quantity and satisfactory in quality throughout the year.

The water to the Borough is supplied by The North Devon Water Board. The water intake is from two sources : one from the River Yeo at a point some 5 miles from the town. This water gravitates to the treatment works at Pilton, where it is first filtered through sand filter-beds, and then chlorinated. The other source of supply is from the Water Board's reservoir at Wistlandpound. This is also treated by filtration and chlorination.

During the year, 86 bacteriological samples were submitted for examination. 85 showed no B. Coli present, and were satisfactory.

SEWERAGE -

Sewerage from the Borough properties lying on the south bank of the River Taw is connected to the Barnstaple Rural District sewerage scheme, with sludge treatment and disposal works at Yelland. This Works deals with sewage from all properties on the south bank of the River Taw from Barnstaple to Instow, and includes the villages of Bickington, Fremington and Yelland.

There is no treatment of the sewage from the main part of the Borough, i.e. that part lying on the north bank of the River Taw. At present, sewage is disposed of directly by various outfalls into the Estuary.

The main discharge of sewage is at the Castle Quay outfall. Pilton and Yeo Vale areas discharge at the Pottington outfall. Bradiford village discharges directly into the Bradiford Water. There are two small outfalls at Rolle Quay, discharging into the River Yeo. These drain a laundry, 4 cottages and a few other properties.

The majority of properties in the town are connected to the main sewer, with the exception of approximately 182 dwellings which are either on septic tanks or have earth closets.

The Council agreed during the year to extend the Pilton East sewer, which will relieve 34 dwellings of septic tank drainage.

No further progress has been made with the proposed North Bank Sewage Treatment Works.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

TUBERCULOSIS -

Hawley Hospital, situated in the Borough, has 28 beds.

MATERNITY CASES -

At The North Devon Infirmary there is a ward of 14 beds, with a fully-qualified staff available for cases of doubt or difficulty.

A General Practitioners' Maternity Unit of 13 beds is situated at "Highfield", Victoria Road, Barnstaple.

At Bicclescombe Hospital, Ilfracombe, there are 10 beds for Maternity and Ante-natal patients, and during the year 1961, 4 Barnstaple births took place at this Hospital.

There are also 4 beds for maternity cases at Braunton Nursing Home.

ISOLATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES -

There is an Infectious Diseases Hospital at Bideford - The Kingsley Hospital - which serves Barnstaple as well as other Local Authorities in North Devon.

SMALLPOX -

The Smallpox Hospital, to which any cases of Smallpox will be

sent, is Upton Pine Hospital, near Exeter. Medical Officers of Health have been asked that where a suspected case of Smallpox is brought to their notice, the Medical Officer in Charge of the Isolation Hospital should be informed as soon as possible, as there may be a slight delay before the hospital is ready to receive patients: 'Phone Upton Pyne Hospital (through the Isolation Hospital, Whipton, Exeter 67158.)

Special ambulance transport for the conveyance of Smallpox cases is obtainable from Exeter 55485.

DISINFECTION -

By local arrangement, the steam disinfection apparatus at Bicclescombe Hospital, Ilfracombe, is available if required.

GENERAL -

The North Devon Infirmary, situated in Barnstaple, serves the area, and provides modern medical and surgical treatment for the residents of the district.

Two wards at The Alexandra Hospital, Barnstaple, are set aside as an Annexe to the North Devon Infirmary, and post-operative and recovery patients are transferred there as soon as possible.

There are 100 beds for the chronic sick at The Alexandra Hospital.

At Braunton Nursing Home there are 4 beds for sick persons.

LABORATORY -

The Public Health Laboratory, of which Dr. B. Moore is the Director, is situated at Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, Exeter. It is completely installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all Doctors.

Bacteriological examinations of drinking water and milk are also carried out there.

There is also a Pathological Laboratory at 75 Boutport Street, Barnstaple, with a full-time Pathologist and technical staff to meet the needs of the whole North Devon area. The Blood Bank is also situated at this Laboratory.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES -

V. D. Clinic : This is held at The North Devon Infirmary, Glossope Annexe :-

Sessions

<u>Males</u>	(Mondays, 5.15 p.m.	<u>Females</u>	(Mondays, 4.00 p.m.
	(Thursdays, 5.45 p.m.		(Thursdays, 4.30 p.m.

Chest Clinic is held at The North Devon Infirmary, Glossope Annexe :-

Sessions

Tuesdays	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.)	
	2 p.m. - 4 p.m.)	
	)	Clinic & X-Ray Examinations
Thursdays	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.)	
	2 p.m. - 4 p.m.)	
Fridays	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.)	
	2 p.m. - 4 p.m.)	A. P. Refills

AMBULANCE SERVICES -

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Local Health Authority (i.e. the Devon County Council) is responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service, and the Devon County Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. The Brigade serves the Borough and the district around, and the Headquarters are in Commercial Road, Barnstaple, Tel : Barnstaple 2600. The staff consists of 3 paid members (full-time), 20 men volunteers, and 14 volunteer nurses.

The Hospital Car Service, also under the Devon County Council, is available upon application to the Hospital by the Doctor concerned, and the Ambulance Service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when the Ambulance is not necessary.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOMES -

There are 2 District Nurses and 3 District Nurse/Midwives practising in the Borough.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT -

I am obliged to the Barnstaple Meteorological Station at The North Devon Athenaeum for the following information :-

Barometer : Highest reading 30.6 inches on 8th March;
 Lowest " 29.1 " " 7th October.

Temperature : Maximum 83° on 29th August;
 Minimum 18° on 28th December;
 Mean for the Year 49.5°

Rainfall : 35.36 inches.
 Average for preceding 10 years 35.3 inches.
 Number of days on which .01 or more of rain fell
 = 187.

REPORT OF CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

June, 1962.

To : His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors
of the Borough of Barnstaple.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit a Report on the work of your Public Health Inspectors for the Year 1961.

If each year has its outstanding feature, 1961 is memorable for the complete re-organisation of the system of Refuse Collection which had grown piecemeal over many years. In July, a new type of compressing vehicle was delivered, and the opportunity was taken to institute collections as nearly as possible on the basis of one Municipal Ward on each working day of a five-day week, with all available vehicles in the same area whenever possible, for mutual assistance. At the same time, trade refuse collections from the main streets of the Borough were begun at the earliest hour possible in view of traffic conditions. Initial difficulties and some opposition from Traders were overcome, and with only minor adjustments, the system settled down and by the end of the year was a proven success.

As always, meat inspection accounted for the greatest number of visits made, these being more than one third of the total. There was again a slight reduction in the total number of animals to be inspected, but this was still more than 60,000 for the third successive year.

Of the 670 houses listed as likely for demolition in the original survey of 1954, a further 87 were demolished during the year, but a large number of houses in the Derby area whose demolition was confirmed in early 1960 were still occupied because new building was not equivalent. This last state of their occupiers is worse than the first, as owners are, naturally, reluctant to keep in repair properties that are doomed.

Regular visits were made to food shops and food preparing premises, to market stalls and to the travelling shops which are becoming more a feature of modern marketing of food.

The only caravan site in the Borough was visited many times. It is still very much below required standards, and must be regarded as being only on probation until the conditions laid down for the granting of a Site Licence are complied with.

The following tables and remarks refer to the main duties of the Department. There can be no records kept of the innumerable interviews or chance encounters which are all part of the year's work, and which may often produce better results than would statutory action.

(1) HOUSING ACTS and PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS -

817 premises were visited, and 438 re-visits were made as a result of action taken.

There has been a steady improvement in housing standards in the Borough, with the demolition of over 500 sub-standard houses in but a few years. The emphasis now is not on grossly inferior houses fit only for demolition, but on the large number of substantial dwellings which have not even all the modest amenities that can be got by Standard Grants. The verminous house is now a rare curiosity. The house without bathroom, hot water supply and internal sanitary accommodation will surely, in time, become such a rarity.

45 houses were improved by way of Standard Grants, and, in addition, minor repairs or improvements were carried out after Informal Notice or consultation at 63 other houses.

Houses built during the year were :-

By Local Authority	...	45)	
By Private Enterprise	...	77	)	122

(I am grateful to the Borough Surveyor for the information as to the number of houses improved by Grants, and also for the number of houses erected during the year.)

(2) REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL -

During the year, the first step in the modernisation of an ageing fleet of refuse collection vehicles was taken, with the purchase of a 30 cu. yd. Karrier, capable of compressing its load, and requiring, therefore, far fewer trips from collection areas to the point of disposal. In addition, being rear-loaded, it is almost dustless in operation and far easier of being loaded by its crew.

A new and more powerful crawler-tractor with blade was also put into service on the controlled Tip at Seven Brethren's Bank, and after an initial near-disaster, when it became almost completely buried in mud for a week-end, proved a really remarkable machine.

By the end of the year, 11 acres of the low-lying ground of the tipping area had been raised to the level of the Bank, and so solid has been the consolidation of tipped refuse and waste material, it is only at the immediate area of tipping that there is any hint of what lies beneath.

A review was also made of the whole system of charges for Trade Refuse collections in the Borough, and a new scale of fees was approved in December, to be put into operation in 1962.

Many notices were served on occupiers who failed to provide an approved type of bin for refuse storage.

All the work of collection and disposal is done by 10 men, and I am, as always, grateful to them for their hard work done so well, especially in the earliest days of the revised collections, when more than their usual cheerfulness and willingness was needed to overcome a very difficult period.

(3) SALVAGE -

The following table shows the quantities of materials salvaged, together with their value :-

	tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	£.	s.	d.
Paper :	13	14	1	21	41.	3.	4
Rags	2	4	1	16	22.	13.	4
Ferrous Metals . . .	5	11	3	0	6.	9.	9
Non-ferrous Metals	-	6	3	1	27.	11.	1
	21	17	1	10	£97.	17.	6

(4) MEAT INSPECTION -

The improvements to the Public Abattoir were completed during the year. If it could be removed bodily from its present Tuly Street setting and transported to open country, it would do well for some years to come. It is only one of 6 or more undertakings which contribute to the gross over-use of a narrow street, but it is principally blamed for the results.

The total number of animals slaughtered and inspected was 64,029 : sufficient nearly to provide fresh meat for a quarter of the population of the county of Devon. This was the first full year of occupation by the Fatstock Marketing Corporation as Lessees, and relations were harmonious always. Sunday slaughtering continued : it is like war, nobody wants it, but it is practised.

Animals slaughtered and inspected were as follows :-

Beasts	...	5,135
Calves	...	1,123
Sheep	...	43,653
Pigs	...	14,118
		<u>64,029</u>

Meat condemned as unfit for human consumption :-

41 tons 7 cwts. 0 qrs. 11 lbs.

Whole carcasses condemned include the following :-

Beasts	...	90
Calves	...	47
Sheep	...	625
Pigs	...	18
		<hr/>
		780
		<hr/>

Incidence of Tuberculosis in Cows was high at 10.06% against 5.4% in 1960. This is explained by the fact that 119 Re-actors were sent in by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, and of these, 78% were found positive. Without the Re-actors the incidence in other cows was only .001%.

Examinations for *Cysticercus Bovis* (the embryo form of a tapeworm infesting man) continued, and 23 cases were found - a decrease of 3 on the previous year. The incidence of infection was .44% against .59% in 1960.

There was no other Slaughterhouse licensed for use in the Borough.

17 Licences were issued to Slaughtermen.

The following table is in the form prescribed for Annual Reports by the Ministry of Health :-

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	4,310	825	1,123	43,653	14,118	Nil
Number inspected	4,310	825	1,123	43,653	14,118	Nil
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS & CYSTICERCI -</u>						
Whole Carcasses condemned ...	8	82	47	625	16	Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ condemned ...	802	497	1	1,154	3	Nil
% of number insp ^d . affected with dis- ease other than T.B. & Cysticerci	18.8%	70.2%	4.2%	4.1%	0.1%	Nil
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY -</u>						
Whole Carcasses condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ condemned ...	11	83	Nil	Nil	322	Nil
% of number insp ^d . affected with T.B.	0.2%	10.06%	Nil	Nil	2.3%	Nil
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS -</u>						
Carcase of which some part or organ condemned ...	20	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	20	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

(5) FOOD PREMISES -

(a) The Devon County Council is the Food & Drugs Authority, but the sampling provisions are exercised locally in cases of emergency or special interest.

(b) The following is a list of Food Premises * in the Borough :-

* N.B. Where, as often applies, a Food Shop deals in more than one of the specified commodities, the premises have been classified according to the predominating type of business.

Bread & Cakes	...	...	...	15
Cafes & Restaurants	...	...	...	18
Cooked Meats, etc.	...	...	...	3
Dairies	...	...	...	16
Fish (wet)	...	...	...	6
Fish & Chips	...	...	...	9
Fruit & Vegetables	...	...	...	25
Groceries & General Provisions				61
Ice Cream	...	...	...	1
Meat	...	...	...	28
Mineral Water Factories			...	2
Public Houses & Hotels			...	40
Sweets & Confectionery			...	109
Wines & Spirits (Off-Licences)				4
				<hr/>
				337
				<hr/>

(c) 158 premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, viz. 48 for the Preparation of Processed Foods and 110 for the Sale of Ice Cream.

(d) 117 inspections of Registered Food Premises were carried out during the year, and 1,986 visits were made to all types of food premises. The general standard of cleanliness and food hygiene was very good.

(e) 14 samples of Ice Cream were taken during the year for bacteriological examination, with the following results :-

Producer	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	Total
'A'	1	1	-	-	2
'B'	1	2	1	-	4
'C'	2	-	1	-	3
'D'	2	1	-	1	4
'E'	1	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	7	4	2	1	14

There has been a distinct change from the pre-packed Ice Cream to the bulk product which, apparently, is a more profitable article. All Retailers of this type of Ice Cream are advised of the great importance of keeping serving instruments sterile between sales.

(f) Food inspected and surrendered as unfit for human consumption was as follows :-

TINNED FOOD

Corn (Sweet)	...	2 tin(s))	
Cream	...	1 ")	
Eggs (frozen)	...	1 ")	
Fish	...	94 ")	
Fruit	...	1,525 ")	
Fruit Juice	...	150 "	)	2,634 tins
Meat	...	378 "	)	weight
Milk	...	102 ")	
Milk Puddings	...	76 "	)	4,859 lbs. 14¼ oz.
Preserves	...	31 ")	
Soups	...	29 ")	
Spaghetti	...	3 ")	
Syrup (Golden)	...	4 ")	
Vegetables	...	238 ")	

OTHER FOODS

Beetroot (4 jars)	...	3 lbs.	0 oz.
Butter	...	126 "	12 "
Cheese	...	145 "	8 "
Chickens (29 whole)	...	64 "	1 "
Coconut Mallows	...	27 "	0 "
Confectionery (265 pkts.)	...	20 "	0 "
Dressed Crab (6 jars)	...	- "	12 "
Fish (wet)	...	14 "	0 "
Fruit (fresh)(7 boxes)	...	153 "	0 "
Fruit Jellies (13 jars)	...	3 "	4 "
Fruit Juice (14 bottles)	...	3 "	8 "
Honey (3 jars)	...	1 "	8 "
Jam (82 jars)	...	83 "	0 "
Meat * (Butchers' Shops)	...	7,287 "	0 "
Meat (opened tins)	...	30 "	0 "
Relish (18 jars)	...	4 "	8 "
Rennett (2 bottles)	...	1 "	8 "
Suet (12 packets)	...	4 "	8 "

7,973 lbs. 5 oz.

* includes 198 whole
carcases of N.Z. Lamb.

(6) MILK & DAIRIES -

For some years now all milk retailed in the Borough has been Tuberculin-tested or Heat-treated (Pasteurised or Sterilised).

Under the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949, the Borough Public Health Department is responsible for the following administrative duties :-

- (a) The sanitary conditions of the distributive trade, other than Producer-Retailers;
- (b) Provision with regard to the infection of milk from human infectious diseases, and from certain diseases of bovine origin;
- (c) The prevention of the sale of milk from animals infected by tuberculosis and other specified conditions.

The number of Dairies in the Borough, registered under the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949 - 1954, is 16.

17 samples of milk were submitted to the County Public Health Laboratory for the detection of tubercle. All were negative.

(7) WATER SUPPLIES -

The mains water supply for the Borough of Barnstaple is satisfactory both as regards quantity and quality.

The Department receives weekly reports on samples submitted by The North Devon Water Board for bacteriological examination, and only one unsatisfactory report was received during the year.

(8) INFECTIOUS DISEASES and DISINFECTIONS -

- (a) Investigations made concerning Infectious Diseases (cases and contacts):-

Food Poisoning	:	2
Scarlet Fever	:	2

(b) Disinfections carried out :-

Cancer (deaths) : 3.

(9) RODENT DISINFESTATION -

No major infestation was reported or located during the year, and only the occasional services of a semi-retired pensioner were required to deal with such as occurred. Most of these were due to demolition work disturbing colonies (usually of mice). Even rodents have their re-housing problems.

(10) OTHER DISINFESTATIONS -

55 premises were treated for pests, as follows :-

Bugs	...	...	1
Cockroaches	...	...	5
Fleas	...	...	13
Flies	...	...	1
Steam Flies	...	...	11
Wasps (nests)	...	...	24

(11) PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928 -

The following Storage Licences were granted under the above Act :-

Petroleum Spirit	...	...	...	...	59
Petroleum Spirit & Carbide of Calcium	..				1
Petroleum Spirit & Petroleum Mixtures	..				6
Petroleum Mixtures	...	...	...	...	7
Petroleum Mixtures & Carbide of Calcium					1

74

The quantities stored are as follows :-

Petroleum Spirit	...	...	...	179,556	gallons
Petroleum Mixtures	...	...	...	1,819	"
Carbide of Calcium	...	...	...	256	lbs.

The amount of fees received by the Corporation in respect of the above Licences was £51. 10. Od.

(12) EXPLOSIVES ACTS 1875 & 1923 -

The number of Premises Registered for the Storage of Mixed Explosives (fireworks, cartridges, etc.) was : 42.

(13) FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959 -

The following tables show Inspections, etc. carried out during 1961 :-

(a) INSPECTIONS :

Premises	Number on Register	Inspect- ions	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosec ^d .
1. Factories in which S.1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	17	2	-	-
2. Factories not incl. in (1) in which S.7 is enforced by L.A.	134	94	-	-
3. Other Premises in which S.7 is enforced by L.A. (excluding Outworkers' premises)	14	-	-	-
TOTAL	165	96	-	-

(b) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND :

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspect.	by H.M. Inspect.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	3	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1	-	1	-
TOTAL	5	4	-	1	-

(c) OUTWORK :

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of Out-workers in Aug. list (S.110, 1c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists	No. of prosecutions for failure to send lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecution
Wearing Apparel (making, etc.)	70	-	-	-	-	-
Lace, Lace-curtains, Nets	11	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ...	81	-	-	-	-	-

(14) CLEAN AIR ACT -

There was need for several visits during the year to the relatively few factories and other undertakings whose chimneys gave offence. Barnstaple has no defined industrial area, and such boiler chimneys as there are in the Borough are at different points around the perimeter of the town centre, with only two in the same Ward.

In every case of complaint, there was immediate co-operation from the undertakings concerned.

At the end of the year, one of the largest factories was being converted to oil-burning furnaces.

(15) THE FOLLOWING IS A DETAILED LIST OF SANITARY OPERATIONS
CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR 1961 :-

Nature of Works Done	Public Health Acts	Hous- ing Acts	Food & Drugs Act	Fac- tories Acts
New sets of house drains laid	2	-	-	-
Drains repaired	5	-	-	-
Drains cleared	26	-	-	-
Smoke & water tests applied	3	-	-	-
New vent pipes provided	2	-	-	-
Fresh air inlets provided	4	-	-	-
New inspection chambers built	7	-	-	-
New interceptors fixed	2	-	-	-
New gullies fixed	4	-	-	-
New W.C. pans provided	13	-	-	-
W.Cs. repaired	1	-	-	-
Flushing cisterns repaired	1	-	-	-
Sink waste pipes fixed	1	-	-	-
Roofs repaired or renewed	8	-	-	-
Rain pipes repaired	1	-	-	-
Guttering renewed or repaired	6	-	-	-
Walls repaired	2	-	-	-
Plaster repaired - external	6	-	-	-
Dampness remedied	9	-	-	-
New windows fixed	-	-	1	-
Lighting improved	-	-	1	-
Ventilation improved	-	-	-	1
Rooms cleansed	-	-	42	-
Food protected from contamina- tion)	-	-	30	-
Bins provided	5	-	-	-
Vermin and other pests erad-) icated)	55	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	1	-	-	-
Premises where nuisances abated	89	-	-	-
Houses demolished	-	87	-	-
Houses closed	-	2	-	-

(16)

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, ETC.

Total visits made	...	...	...	3,946
Houses inspected - Public Health Acts	...			788
" " - P.H.A. (re-visits)	...			353
" " - Housing Acts	...			29
" " - H.A. (re-visits)	...			85
Visits to Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	1,420
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	39
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	88
Other Food Shops	...	...	...	384
Bakehouses	...	...	...	9
Milk Vehicles (including sampling)	...	...	...	12
Dairies	...	...	...	14
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	20
Shops Act	...	...	...	2
Factories	...	...	...	96
Rodent Control	...	...	...	32
Refuse Tip	...	...	...	337
Petroleum Storage	...	...	...	9
Infectious Diseases Investigations	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous Letters written	...	...	...	70
Statutory Notices - Public Health Acts	...			Nil
" " - Housing Acts	...			Nil
Informal Notices - Public Health Acts	...			143
" " - P.H.A. (secondary)	...			27
Verbal Notices	...	...	...	55

In conclusion, I would like to thank all members of the Council and members of all other Departments for their courtesy and co-operation throughout the year. Especially would I express my thanks to the staff of the Public Health Department for much hard work done so ably and willingly.

Your obedient servant,

W. RODGERS,

Chief Public Health Inspector

